

Agricultural Pest Control Adviser Licenses. Minimum Qualifications.

6550. The provisions of this section apply to a person who has never held an agricultural pest control adviser license. The license applicant shall meet the minimum qualifications in either subsection (a) or subsection (b) through December 31, 2002. The minimum qualifications in subsection (b) shall be mandatory effective January 1, 2003.

(a) A person who has never held an agricultural pest control adviser license shall meet the following minimum qualifications:

- (1) Have either a bachelor's degree (B.A. or B.S.) in the agricultural sciences, biological sciences, or pest management; or
- (2) Have 60 semester units (90 quarter units) of college-level curriculum in an agricultural sciences, biological sciences, or pest management degree program, plus 24 months of technical experience as follows:
 - (A) working for a licensed agricultural pest control adviser;
 - (B) working for a pest management specialist including, but not limited to, a farm adviser, certified commercial applicator, certified private applicator, or licensed pest control dealer;
 - (C) a field sweeper, field checker or scout;
 - (D) a participant in field or laboratory research activities relating to pest control;
 - (E) a participant in agricultural pest control/management activities for a federal, state, or county entity;
 - (F) a qualified applicator licensee pursuant to Division 6, Chapter 8, commencing with section 12201, Food and Agricultural Code, employed by a licensed pest control business except that no more than 12 months experience solely in the categories specified in subsections 6530(b) and (k) shall be used;
 - (G) an authorized licensee listed on a structural pest control operator license except that no more than 12 months experience as a licensed structural pest control operator shall be used; or
 - (H) a farm operator involved in agricultural pest control/management activities.
- (3) In addition to either (a)(1) or (a)(2), the college-level curricula shall include a total of 39 semester units (58.5 quarter units), in the following:
 - (A) Biological science courses including one chemistry course, including a minimum of 12 semester units (18 quarter units);
 - (B) Agricultural science courses including both production and pest management courses, including a minimum of 18 semester units (27 quarter units); and
 - (C) Agricultural science, biological science, pest management and/or chemistry courses, including a minimum of 9 semester units (13.5 quarter units).

(b) Effective January 1, 2003, a person who has never held an agricultural pest control adviser license shall meet the following minimum qualifications:

- (1) Have either a bachelor's degree (B.A. or B.S.) in the agricultural sciences, biological sciences, or pest management; or
- (2) Have 45 semester units (67.5 quarter units) of college-level curricula in the physical and biological sciences, crop health, pest management systems and methods, and

production systems topic areas plus 24 months of technical experience as specified in (a)(2)(A-H).

(3) The college-level curricula specified in (b)(1) and (b)(2) shall include at least 45 semester units (67.5 quarter units) as shown in the following table:

Area of Study	Semester Units	Quarter Units
Physical and biological sciences such as introduction to inorganic chemistry, organic chemistry, biochemistry, plant biology or botany, ecology, soils, irrigation, genetics, plant physiology, entomology, and zoology.	15	22.5
Crop health such as vegetative management or weeds, plant pathology, agricultural/economic entomology, plant nutrition or fertility, nematology, and vertebrate management.	12	18
<p>Pest management systems and methods, with at least one course in pest management systems and one course in pest management methods.</p> <p>Pest management systems topics such as agricultural chemical applications, properties of pesticides, mode of action of agricultural chemicals, toxicology, environmental impact of pesticides, and biological control.</p> <p>Pest management methods topics such as integrated pest management, alternative cropping systems, and sustainable agricultural systems.</p>	9	13.5
Production systems such as environmental horticulture, horticulture, ornamental horticulture, forestry, agronomy, crop science, vegetable crops animal science, or other production systems.	9	13.5
Total Units Required	45	67.5

(c) The applicant shall submit to the Director an official transcript verifying the courses completed and the degrees granted to the applicant. In addition, an applicant qualifying pursuant to (a)(2) or (b)(2) shall submit employment records, a statement from an employer, or other proof of technical experience to the Director.